

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

This Second Amendment will confirm the telephone conversation on December 17, 2003 between Examiner Le and applicant's attorney Thomas A. Hodge.

Applicant notes that the July 29 Office Action does not list Claim 15 as either pending, allowed or rejected. Applicant confirms that Claim 15 is pending in this application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

In the July 29 Office Action, the Examiner states that Claims 10-11 are allowed. To expedite the prosecution of this application, applicant has cancelled Claim 1 and amended Claims 2-3, 6-7, 9 and 12-15 to be dependent upon either allowed Claim 10 or a claim which is dependent upon allowed Claim 10.

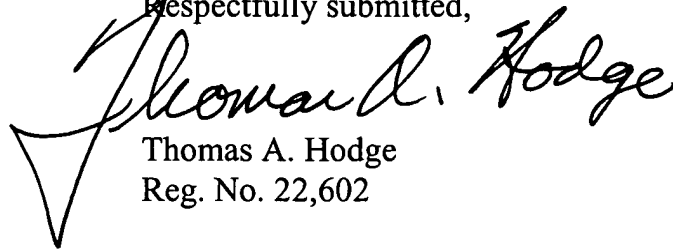
II. The Rejections Under Section 103

In 7 separate rejections under 35 U.S. C. 103(a), the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-9 and 12-14 as being unpatentable over certain references cited in the July 29 Office Action.

In view of the cancellation of Claim 1 and in view of the amendments specified above, applicant submits that amended Claims 2-9 and 12-15 are allowable as these claims are now dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon allowed Claim 10. Accordingly, applicant requests the removal of these rejections under Section 103(a).

Based upon the above amendments and reasoning, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas A. Hodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

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